

Role of Modern Technology in Enhancing Special Effects in Drama

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Introduction-

The theater has evolved a lot since its beginnings. The advent of technology has greatly affected the world of theater. The success of the theater lies in its special effects. The lack of technology was a major obstacle to improving special effects in theaters at the time. Advances in technology have certainly enhanced their special effects. This allowed the theater to significantly increase its influence on the public. This research paper examines the different types of technology which made it possible to increase the special effects of the theater.

Objectives -

The objectives of the research paper are to analyze the role of technology in the improvement of special effects in the theater.

Literature Review -

Immersive technologies have the potential to revolutionize the theater industry and enhance the audience experience. From redefining the boundaries of stage design to improving accessibility, these technologies offer limitless opportunities for creativity and artistic expression. As the theater industry continues to evolve, it will be exciting to see how immersive technologies continue to shape the future of performance. (Collective Horizon 2023). The use of computer generated imagery in theatre has

transformed the way production is staged offering creative possibilities that were once impossible.

While the film industry has used CGI for decades, theater has traditionally relied on practical effects, sets and costumes to create its magic. However, thanks to technological advances, CGI now plays a central role in the world of live performance. The theater has always worked with technology -

this is nothing new -

but now we have a whole new wave of technologies that bring with them the potential of new genres of theater and storytelling in general. (Rogers. S 2019).

Technology has dramatically transformed the theater experience, bringing innovations that increase performance and audience engagement. One of the most transformative aspects has been the evolution of lighting technology. Historically, theaters have relied on natural light, requiring outdoor settings and daytime performances to ensure visibility. This practice limited the creative capacity of theater lighting.

Research methodology -

The research methodology used for the purpose of the research is analytical. An analysis will be conducted using secondary data.



(AI and Theatre)
(Courtesy-AMT Lab @CMU)

Analysis-Here are the 6 ways Modern Technology is Enhancing Special Effects in Drama.

Visual Effects-

The visual aspect of a play has always been important. From the ancient Greeks who used cranes to transport characters on the stage, to the modern tracking systems that allow them to create stunning and safe effects, the goal has always been to provide the audience with the visual element. Technological advances have pushed the limits of storytelling and audience engagement. Advancements in stage design have made it possible to seamlessly integrate digital elements into the performance. From intricate set changes to immersive visual effects, technology has opened creative possibilities for theatre productions that will captivate audiences with an unforgettable experience. Modern technology has made it simpler for theatres to improve the visual appeal of their productions and accomplish a wide range of tasks. Automation allows 3D printing sets that are built faster and contain more detail, allowing the audience to dive deeper into the set and story.

Sound and Audio Effects-

Technology affects the audience's listening experience in many ways, for example, instead of manually creating sound effects for music today,

production teams can simply download those effects from the Internet into music. In addition, sound design allows directors to easily layer sound. more natural background music and effects for these performances.

Microphone technology also helps a lot, instead of projecting voice actors who can speak into a microphone projected from a speaker strategically placed in the theatre.

Speech systems. The development of amplifier loudspeaker enclosures and loudspeakers had a significant impact on cinemas as it enabled the sound engineer to reproduce music and effects from one central location. Portable speakers allow today's productions to produce sound at a consistent volume throughout the theatre. High-definition speakers bring more realism to the modern stage and create an even more immersive theatre experience. Modern loudspeaker systems have allowed the theatre to control 1% of the total production sound and keep every element perfect throughout the mixing desk. The sound operator can control the level of actor Mike and play sound effects and appropriate timings with the control. whatever music their production uses.

LED Lights Effects-

Until recently, the theatre relied on a traditional lighting system that requires a long installation

process to set up the stage lighting. The lighting designer often had to place 3 pendant lights to write in each light containing its own gel, these gels help change the light to the specific colour the production needs. Light emitting diodes (LEDs) came into the picture around 2007 and changed the way cinema lighting is done today. Today, LED lighting has features that theatre professionals love. Many of them have built-in dimmers that can be controlled with a remote control. Ready-made room lighting comes in the form of strip lights, moving front lights and parquet floors, short joys have given directors and theatre groups more colour that can be used much more comfortably and for a longer period of time. Instead of manually controlling the light, lighting operators now control direct light over the network via a control station. Although digital lighting designers can control the intensity of the images projected on the stage and the light colours of the pattern, unlike traditional projector technology where the production team must manually control the digital light point. One user controls hundreds of lights in a digital light gate. the possibility of controlling lights from one place saves time and opens up new possibilities for the stage.

4.Automation.

Automation allows theatre productions to move sets in time using a cable system motor electronic control box and control software. This technique allows directors to add complexity to the stage and make smooth transitions when putting together the scenery. It also makes it easier for the staggers who had to move the props by brute force. This may seem like an obvious example, but the reason for this is that automation can be very noticeable on stage, because hydraulic lifts are the smallest scale in the stage. large sets that many traditional items trust in theatre Rigging now its technology for automatic time reactions. The following floodlights used to be controlled by the Stagehands that illuminated the action on the stage, but this practice has often been replaced by automatic digital tracking by the technical department of the sports department.

Light signals are often programmed to last longer than 15 seconds. Large props are often automated on rails and digitally timed stage queues form backstage projections and video screens are currently very popular with theatre producers and the many uses for this technology are just beginning to be explored.

5. Social media and theatre

While it doesn't really relate to the day-to-day running of the theatre, it probably has the biggest impact on the theatre community collectively as the days after the black tips roll in and social media has quickly become professional. a visible way to sell tickets or increase sales. This is in many ways the best outcome for small or independent theatre groups. Today, most tickets are sold online on platforms such as Instagram or BookMyShow, and tickets are available to anyone with an internet connection. In addition, with the growth of online traffic on social media, advertising is no longer limited to one marketing department, because today all theatre group shows can participate in a sales event through an individual online presence. Theatre becomes a community relationship between performers and their audience for buying online channels.

6. AI Technology -Future

The technologies that are transforming theatre a new BMO-supported lab at U of T investigate the creative potential of AI in the arts. The demo project features an actor performing lines from the Shakespeare's Tempest using gestures and hidden sensors on his risk to conjurer Thunder from public address system and lighting from stage lights.

Challenges That Technology Presents

While technology is helping the theatre in so many ways, we also realised that these benefits. Come with drawbacks? While technology has led to the creation of an ever more dazzling performances. Many art organisations worry about the long-term effect on audience.

There are also concerns that the effort to meet audience expectations will influence artistic choices. All the entire theatrical experience. This could diminish the. Essence of the life performance where younger people don't want to show up at a specific time specific place. For a specific performance.

Technology has blurred the lines between commercial entertainment and the non-commercial art, forcing art organisations to more directly compete with other art forms of entertainment.

Theatre practitioners also worried at the quality and the quantity of the theatre performances will diminish.

Conclusion.

A Promising Theatrical Future

Technology is here to stay. Theatre practitioners are recognising this change Theatre as an art form

will continue to transform and adapt due to the advancement in technology particularly in the field of the live performance.

As technology advances, the theatre industry has a bright future ahead of it. In the past, this technology was enhanced by sound and light technologies. Today, new technologies such as 3D printing creative markets can be applied with the introduction of new experiments and high technology. Vidhi-based applied technology and theatre can join forces to express stories through technology-enhanced methods.

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